

The Great War—1426th Day

able activity. During the day we shot down seventeen German airplanes and drove six others out of control. Three of our machines were destroyed.

"Our airmen and balloon crews employed in observation work took advantage of the fine weather to cooperate with the artillery in engaging hostile batteries and ammunition dumps with good destructive effect. A great number of explosions and fires were caused by this work. Our photographic machines also were active and many reconnaissances were carried out both by day and night. Twenty-two tons of bombs were dropped by us during the day on the enemy's targets and fourteen and a half tons in the course of the following night."

Brilliant Attack By French Took Foe by Surprise

PARIS, June 29.—Telegraphing from the front, the correspondent of the Havas Agency says that Thursday's attack of the French on the line southwest of Soissons penetrated to a depth of one and a quarter miles over a front of four and three eighths miles. Great spirit was shown by the French troops in their attack, and the infantry, by their brilliancy, surprised the enemy and advanced with hardly any artillery preparation.

The assault began at 5 o'clock Thursday morning, and at 6:15 o'clock the French had gained all their objectives. During the afternoon the enemy had been driven from higher ground along the line, which would have been admirable "jumping off" points in future attacks, reacted with great violence, but suffered heavy losses, in addition to losing a number of prisoners.

Heavy Gun Duels Rage Along Front Taken by British

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, June 29.—Late last night and again early today the Germans put down vigorous struggles along the sector north of Merville, but no further infantry action has been reported. Great fleets of airplanes are constantly whirling over hostile lines, and are conducting bitter warfare against the Germans.

Heavy artillery duels have been waged continually during the last twenty-four hours in the Merville region, where the British yesterday morning rushed the Germans back by a successful surprise attack. Prisoners secured in this operation now total nine officers and 322 other ranks. Two field guns, twenty-two machine guns and one trench mortar also were taken by the British. The German losses in killed and wounded are very severe.

Intense activity has been marking the work of the royal air force. Prisoners state that their casualties have been very heavy as the result of the new raids.

What the German soldier thinks of the British aviators may be indicated by two letters taken from prisoners. One letter written in May by a man in the Bapaume region said:

"Enemy aviators have caused us a great deal of misery. They are incessant night and day. They bombard the main roads of Peronne, Bapaume and Cambrai. One isn't safe anywhere."

Another letter recently written by a soldier in Peronne read:

"I have nothing to fear from the enemy if they are not for his aviators."

"Since we have been here they have been dropping bombs on us every day. Yesterday they dropped bombs on us and three munition trains were blown up."

Words come from the enemy camp through prisoners that the high German command has issued orders for a drastic reduction in ration to come into effect July 1. No fat will be issued under the new regulations.

309 Germans Taken Captive in American Attack Near Marne

WASHINGTON, June 29.—Capture of 309 German prisoners and the destruction of three German airplanes by American aviators were reported by General Pershing in an official communique to-day.

The official communique follows:

"Section A.—In the Chateau Thierry region we again improved our positions south of Torcy. The number of prisoners taken by us at this point, in the operation of June 26, has increased to 309, of whom 27 are officers. It is established that our aviators have shot down three hostile machines in the Toul region since the beginning of the week.

"Section B.—Of the three 'planes mentioned in the American official communique of June 26, one was brought down at 9:30 o'clock on the morning of June 24, between Pont-a-Mousson and Thiaucourt, by Lieutenant Raymond. Lieutenant Raymond discovered a host plane, which dived under his own. He then executed a dive on the hostile 'plane firing as he did so. He saw tracer bullets entering the fuselage of the enemy 'plane. The destruction of the hostile machine has now been confirmed.

On other two 'planes were shot down on June 25 by Major Hartney and Lieutenant McArthur. Major Hartney reports that his patrol of four 'planes, answering the call at 8:30 o'clock in the evening, encountered two German 'planes, of which one was a biplane Rumpier and the other a monoplane. They were flying at an altitude of 4,500 meters.

The German monoplane obtained a position over the tail of Lieutenant Hill's machine. Major Hartney fired a long burst at the monoplane, which he turned over and landed upside down.

The German Rumpier biplane was pursued by Lieutenant McArthur between the cloud level. The two machines exchanged fire. On emerging from the cloud level the hostile machine went over backward. Lieutenant McArthur was at one time within thirty yards of the German 'plane, was able to observe that its tracer bullets entered the fuselage, and is certain that the observer was around before the 'plane fell. He fired a total of 226 rounds. The destruction of these 'planes has also been confirmed."

Corps Commanded By Von Bernhardt Beaten in France

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, June 29.—An interesting detail of the defeat which the British dealt to two German divisions east of Nieppe Forest yesterday is the fact that General Friedrich A. J. von Bernhardt was in command of the army corps that suffered this heavy chastisement.

Von Bernhardt has been a widely read writer of books on war in which he explained the German theory of self-aggrandizement. A while ago it was reported that he had been killed, but it now definitely is established that he is commanding this corps in the field.

Italians Fail to Force Crossing Of Piave River

They Are Driven Back by Austrian Fire, Vienna War Office Says

3 Enemy 'Planes Down Bombs Dropped on Railroad Centres and Troop Concen- tration Points, Rome Says

LONDON, June 29.—Italian units continued their attempts to push across the Piave River at different points, but were driven back by the Austrian fire, the Vienna War Office announced to-day. Elsewhere on the Southwest front there were no infantry actions.

On the Asiago Plateau, on the Italian left, there was strong artillery fighting, in which the Italians harassed the enemy's troop movements and damaged his defenses at several points. Along the whole front from the mountains to the sea there was intermittent firing by the heavy guns on both sides.

The Italian airmen brought down three enemy 'planes in the day's fighting. Bombs were dropped on railroad centres and on troop concentration points, the War Office in Rome stated to-day.

Dr. Wekerle Admits That Italians Took 12,000 Prisoners

RASEL, Switzerland, June 29.—Admission that about 12,000 prisoners were lost by the Austro-Hungarian forces in their recent retreat on the Piave front was made by Dr. Alexander Wekerle, the Hungarian Premier, in a speech to the Chamber of Deputies, according to a Budapest dispatch to-day. Dr. Wekerle said this covered the entire loss in prisoners, the troops to this number thus taken having been left to cover the retreat over the Piave.

Dr. Wekerle, apparently treating of the question of the Austro-Hungarian losses in the recent fighting on the Italian front, said he would not attempt to disguise the fact that the casualties were heavy, totalling about 100,000, but he declared that a large percentage was due to sickness. He added, however, that there had been a single case of death due to lack of food.

AMSTERDAM, June 29.—Answering criticism made in the Hungarian Parliament yesterday by adherents of Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier, in a speech to the Chamber of Deputies, on the subject of the Austro-Hungarian retreat on the Piave front, Major General von Szarvasy, Minister of National Defence, said:

"I strongly contradict statements that these operations have been of barren result. We could have foreseen the heavy rains and the Piave to rise. The army command had the courage to withdraw the troops when they saw they could not be sufficiently provided with ammunition and food. The retreat was ordered in accordance with prepared plans and took place in the course of two nights, quite undisturbed by the enemy. As regards success, I ask you all whether it is a defeat if we make 50,000 prisoners and 8,000 of our men are captured. The Minister's statement was greeted with loud applause."

Rome Sets Austrian Losses on Piave at More Than 270,000

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

WASHINGTON, June 29.—More than 270,000 Austrians were put out of action in their defeat on the Piave, according to a dispatch from Rome, according to a dispatch from Rome to the Italian Embassy to-day. It says:

"The complete failure of the Austrian offensive was shown by their forced evacuation of the Piave valley, their exceptionally heavy losses in dead. Their corpses are strewn along the entire front. Our soldiers have already buried 10,000, but many more are unburied. Thousands more were buried by the Austrians during their stay on the right bank of the Piave, as the great number of graves testified."

"To these must be added an extraordinarily large number of Austrians dead carried off by the Piave current, also those moved down by our artillery and machine gun fire. The Austrians have lost between 60,000 and 60,000 dead."

"If in this battle the usual relation between the dead and wounded existed, we can be certain that the Austrians put out of action in dead and wounded number not less than 250,000. To this we must add 20,000 prisoners."

Italian Successes Praised to Senators By General March

WASHINGTON, June 29.—Senators of the military committee were told by General March, chief of staff, at their weekly conference to-day, that the accounts of the large number of captured Austrians for some unknown reason were printed only in American newspapers and not in any of Europe.

The achievements of the Italians, however, according to Senators, were not to be minimized.

On there is no information to confirm reports, General March said, that German troops are being sent to back up the Austrians.

Paris Newspapers Predict Operations On a Large Scale

PARIS, June 29.—The newspapers comment enthusiastically on the British success Friday east of the Nieppe Forest and that of the French north of Villers-Cotterets. The "Petit Parisien" says that the British success shows commendable spirit and initiative, and adds:

"The result of the operations will be the solid occupation of this sector, which constitutes the south and south-eastern defenses of Alsace. Soon, perhaps, these minor actions may give place to operations on a large scale if the enemy risks a fresh offensive."

The correspondent of "Le Journal" on the British front has visited the tanks which are hidden away in the forests. "The use of tanks is increasing as is proved by the successful part played by them in a recent British raid, when they acted as the flank guard to a patrol," he said. "Moreover, their use as well as their services are being increasingly varied and extended."

The Official Statements

PARIS, June 29.—The War Office announcements to-day said:

NIGHT.—There is nothing to report except quite marked artillery activity between the Ourcq and the Marne and the region east of Rheims.

DAY.—Two German attacks for the purpose of retaking French positions south of the Aisne which were occupied by the French on Thursday night were repulsed. An attack by a number of German battalions between Fosse-en-Bas and Cutry ravine were repulsed along the new front and the French lines were held intact.

Southwest of Rheims the Italians engaged in a sharp combat with the Germans on Bligny Heights. German detachments which had succeeded for the moment in obtaining a foothold in the Italian first lines were driven back.

Along the French lines a number of surprise attacks were carried out during the night.

Northwest of Montdidier American units captured forty prisoners, of whom one was an officer. In the forest of Apremont, in the Lorraine sector, the French likewise took prisoners and captured material.

The night was calm on the rest of the front.

British Took Over 400 Prisoners at Hazebrouck, Says Haig

LONDON, June 29.—The official reports from Field Marshal Haig at British Headquarters in France to-day said:

NIGHT.—Beyond the usual artillery activity on both sides, there is nothing to report.

DAY.—The total number of prisoners taken by us in yesterday's successful operation east of Nieppe Forest exceeds 400. This figure does not include those taken west of Merris. Two German field guns, in addition to a number of machine guns and trench mortars, also were captured by us.

The hostile artillery has been active opposite Vaire Wood, south of the Somme, and west of Feuchy (Arras region).

There has been increased artillery activity on both sides in the Nieppe Forest sector.

Italians Again Attempt Piave Crossing, Vienna Reports

VIENNA, via London, June 29.—The Austrian War Office statement to-day says:

Near Zenson-Notventa Di Piave enemy reconnoitring detachments attempted to cross the river.

On the remainder of the front there have been artillery duels of varying strength everywhere.

Artillery Violence Grows in Mountains, Says Rome

ROME, June 29.—The War Office statement to-day says:

The artillery struggle which remained moderate on the remainder of the front was somewhat lively yesterday on the Asiago Plateau.

Our patrols, with their usual activity, effectively harassed the enemy and damaged his defenses at several points.

Railway centres and enemy troops in movement were bombarded by our and Allied airmen. Three enemy machines were brought down.

Berlin Claims Repulse of Allied Blows in West

BERLIN, via London, June 29.—The statement issued by the German War Office to-day follows:

DAY.—North of the Lys infantry attacks were launched by the British after violent artillery fire. Three assaults against Merris broke down, with heavy losses.

In the middle battlefield the enemy penetrated into Vieux Berquin. A counter attack brought him to a standstill there and threw him back beyond the western border of the village. North of Merville the enemy's attacks broke down under our fire. Southwest of Bucquoy strong attacks by several reconnoitring detachments were repulsed.

South of the Aisne the French attacked, after strong artillery preparation. They were repulsed near Ambly, after stubborn fighting. They gained ground at Outry, but our counter attacks threw them back on the heights on both sides of the place. An attempt by the enemy to carry the infantry attack further by bringing armored cars into action broke down.

At the Villers-Cotterets Forest we pursued the retreating enemy as far as his positions of departure and captured prisoners. The enemy suffered a heavy defeat.

In the air nineteen enemy airplanes were shot down. Twenty Italian prisoners were captured in a minor operation south of Rheims.

Dutch Amazed at U. S. War Energy

AMSTERDAM, June 29.—Dutch newspaper correspondents who have been permitted to view American achievements in various points in France are vastly impressed by the tremendous energy and ability with which the Americans have built railroads, harbor works and hospitals at a bewildering rate of speed. In a long, detailed description the correspondent of the "Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant" writes from Bourges, 140 miles south of Paris, as follows:

"The country is simply saturated with Americans. It is here that the close contact of the two nations will surely bear the fruit."

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Paris to Tighten Aerial Defences

PARIS, June 29.—In an effort to organize the defense of Paris against German raiding airplanes, the Aviation Committee of the Chamber of Deputies will confer with Premier Clemenceau and recommend the pursuit of German machines which bombard the capital and the creation of three distinct defense zones. The first of these zones will be exclusively for cannon and airplanes, the next will be defended by small balloons and the third will be brilliantly lighted.

Reprisals against German cities are demanded by the press, the "Petit Parisien" demanding that the cities of Cologne, Coblenz and Frankfurt be made special objects of attack. The newspapers recommend that the control of airplane bombardment of German cities be placed in the hands of an independent body.

German Airmen Slain In Attack on Paris

PARIS, June 29 (Havas Agency).—One of the German airplanes that took part in Thursday night's air raid on Paris was compelled to land in the wooded area between Paris and the German line. One of the aviators was killed. His two companions were taken prisoner.

Paris was unharmed by last night's German air raid. None of the bombs dropped by the several machines which attempted the penetration of the defenses between 11:30 and 12:30 o'clock fell on the city.

Fall of 'Plane Kills Jersey City Lieutenant

HOUSTON, Tex., June 29.—Second Lieutenant Edmund R. Cole, of Jersey City, N. J., was killed when an airplane crashed to the earth one mile north of Ellington Field last night. Lieutenant Ronald Knapp, who was in the airplane, was not hurt. The plane was wrecked.

ected against any undue disturbance in the routing of traffic.

"In order to make sure that a continuing study and supervision shall be provided for the carrying out of the policy thus outlined, there will be created at once in the railroad's administration a division of public service, and a short line railroad receive section, the manager of which will be charged with the special duty of ascertaining what is necessary in order to give to the public the action necessary to protect the railroads relinquished."

May Take Roads Back

"It may be that instances will appear where Federal control of railroads now relinquished is in fact needful or desirable. In such cases there will be no hesitation in taking the action necessary to place such railroads under Federal control."

"In general, it is the definite policy of the railroad administration to see that all short line railroads receive fair and considerate treatment."

Officials of the Railroad Administration said they hoped the action would not be regarded as defiance of congressional reasons for the challenge. It would have been possible to delay sending the messages of relinquishment until to-morrow.

The attitude of officials opposed to keeping all short lines is that it would constitute an unnecessary financial risk for the government, since many short roads were organized for financial or tactical reasons rather than because they were needed as carriers. Some now are losing money for reasons not connected with government operation.

First Troops From America Land in Italy

Continued from page 1

Channel ports and Paris, and to hold the rest of the line with a reasonable force of good troops, and still have some reserves for an emergency, it will be possible to look at the future with confidence.

It is, perhaps, too much to hope that that situation now exists. Although it is fair to assume that an approach to it has been made, from General March's characterization of the position of the Allies as extremely favorable.

Nothing has been disclosed with regard to what has been done by England and France to add to the man power on the front, but neither country had dug as deeply into its supply of men as Germany did to make her present great efforts. England had not combed out her industries for men that might be spared. France had not called as young men into service as had Germany.

"The Italian line," said General March, "has been the object of greatest interest to military men. The Italian pressure has practically restored the line to where it was held before the advance on the Piave, and the line in two places it has been slightly advanced. The Italians have crossed to the north bank of the Piave at one place and down toward the mouth of the river at another. The old line which has been held by the Austrians and Italians for many months has now been pushed back by the Italians, so that it is closer to the mouth of the river than the Austrians near the seacoast. The line is practically the same as before the big drive was begun by the Austrians."

"Then a military proposition, the attack of the Austrians is considered faulty because they spread their attack over such a large front that it was impossible to carry it through. The attack from the railway, however, is 200 miles long, and there were not large enough forces at all points necessary to carry through such a drive."

"The Austrian disaster which ensued is extremely valuable not only for the military sense, but the psychological sense. It inspires all the Allies and inspires Italy with the consciousness that their forces can be used to distinct advantage, and the practical result is, of course, extremely valuable. The reports which we get of the Austrians captured by the Italians is 18,000."

"Yesterday the first American troops landed in Italy. I do not refer by this to the force which General Pershing is sending from the American expeditionary force, but to the force which has been on the high seas for some little time, and which now has landed."

"During the week the activities in the American sectors in France, as published in General Pershing's communique from day to day, have been local in character. The Americans at all times and in all places more than holding their own. Fine examples of individual heroism are now coming, and with the policy which has been adopted of allowing the mention of the gallant conduct of all our people, and the rank and file are being splendidly all along the line."

"General Pershing has now had turned back to him five divisions of American troops who have been training with the British, and I mention that specifically because it shows the value of the policy which was adopted of using all the training areas possible along the entire front."

"The vast increase of men being sent across are trained, as you see, in three different ways, the great mass being trained with our own forces, but the insistence back of the British line by our people, and in addition, the French facilities, allows us to give that final polishing very much more rapidly than in any other way."

"The two attacks which were made yesterday appeared in the morning papers—one near Hazebrouck, on the British front, and the other in the valley of the Aisne, the official account of the policy which was adopted of using all the training areas possible along the entire front."

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U. S. Soldiers in France May Reveal Whereabouts In Writing Home Letters

(Correspondence The Associated Press)

PARIS, June 17.—American soldiers and officers stationed at posts behind the front may reveal the secret of their whereabouts to friends and relatives at home, according to a new ruling of the army authorities. They may indicate freely that they are at Tours or at other points behind the line and may receive their mail as addressed.

It is still forbidden, however, to send to America, or anywhere else for that matter, any picture postcards of the places where the troops are stationed. The base censor does not feel like taking a chance on sending out photographs that might get into German hands.

18-Year-Old Distinguished U. S. Soldier Killed Abroad

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., June 29.—Corporal Gordon Sutherland, of B Company, 194th Infantry, was killed yesterday, who was awarded the distinguished service medal, May 9, was killed in action June 7, according to a message received here to-day. He was one of the youngest American soldiers to be so honored in the war.

"The troops sent abroad to Italy— which fact has not been even out here— because they were on the high seas—are largely sanitary units. The expedition had with it some other special units, but the character of the expedition was more of the non-combatant variety. Combatant troops will be sent by General Pershing."

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Germans Admit Fear Of American Troops

PARIS, June 29.—German prisoners are virtually unanimous in confirming the fear felt of the Americans by the German High Command. According to the declarations of officers, this is the principal reason for the determination of Germany to seek at all costs to impose peace on the Allies before next winter.

The prisoners make no secret of their astonishment at the spirit and versatility of the American soldiers.

City Thrilled At News of Upton Army

Continued from page 1

when those barracks, which had taken eight minutes for assembling, were at last ready to start on their march. Division pride, a kind of college spirit, began suffusing the fast toughening, former city-softened Soldiers of Freedom.

"First to France—first in the fight—let's go!" were their slogans. They were told that it was a national race of National Army men to reach the fighting front first. They accepted the challenge. General March, through his announcement of yesterday, proclaims them victorious.

By glimpses of bronzed, sturdy young men with the "U. S. N. A." on their collar, New York City began to realize that the National Army experiment was successful beyond all expectations. When the 30th Infantry, under Colonel Averill, marched down Fifth Avenue, early in February, and the military precision of the men was observed, the city swelled near to bursting with pride in the government's new machine.

But the greatest triumph was staged on Fifth Avenue on Washington's Birthday, when, through the driving snow, ten thousand seemingly metamorphosed men, in their khaki uniforms, back, muskets at the correct angle, chins high, bade a marching farewell to their loved ones lining the street. Those are the men who entered the trenches last week.

The seventy-seventh division is composed of four infantry regiments, three artillery regiments and one battalion each of signal corps and engineers and the rest of the miscellaneous complement which goes to make up the modern American division. The infantry regiments are the 306th, 307th, 308th and 309th. The artillery regiments are the 294th and 304th light and 306th heavy. The 302d Field Signal Battalion, commanded by Major Charles R. Milliken, who was elevated at Camp Upton, is composed of members of the National Guard, the army and the telephone corps. Colonel W. A. Sherrill commands the 302d Engineers.

The divisional military commander is Lieutenant Colonel John A. Knowlton. Colonels C. H. Vidmer, Isaac Irwin and Averill command the 306th, 307th and 308th infantry regiments respectively.

The intelligence office is in truth an intelligence center, and is headed by Major Richard, a former New York City newspaper man, in charge. Prominent among the aids in the administration of the division's affairs are Major Lloyd Griscom, former American ambassador to Italy; Major (now Lieutenant Colonel) William H. Haskell, the adjutant general, and Major Cassatt, well known in banking and turf circles, the inspector general.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry L. Stimson, of the 305th Artillery Regiment, was Secretary of War under President Roosevelt in 1912. Some of the other well known New Yorkers among the officers of the division are Major Bozeman Bulger, former publisher of the New York City; Captain Moses King, a well known publisher; Lieutenant James S. O'Neale, former sporting writer on The Tribune; Captain Edwin Grant, formerly of the New York baseball club; Captain P. S. Greene, engineer and author; Captain Auchincloss, of the banking family; Lieutenant James Loughborough, a former New York newspaper man; Captain William Harrigan, of theatrical fame; Captain Robert Aiken, sculptor; Captain James D. Roosevelt, a nephew of Colonel Roosevelt; and Captain Blanton Barrett.

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